



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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September 10, 2007

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-7-25

SUBJECT: LTP – FY2008 EQIP Actions and Timeline

Purpose: To provide information and a timeline for use in implementing the FY 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Expiration Date: This Bulletin expires September 30, 2008

Chief Lancaster has encouraged states to plan to obligate FY2008 Farm Bill Funds prior to the passage of the new Farm Bill legislation. As you may recall, when the 2002 Farm Bill was signed into law, the rules for the different programs changed instantly. Chief Lancaster is attempting to minimize the impact the new Farm Bill may have on our clients in this fiscal year.

In order to comply with the Chief's directive, this Bulletin provides a timeline for use in implementing the FY 2008 Farm Bill Programs. Field office staffs need to ensure that all active Farm Bill Program applications are entered into ProTracts and that each application has a ranking score and cost estimate associated with it by COB January 18, 2008.

Field Office staffs need to move forward with planning and scheduling the necessary work items to allow NRCS to obligate this financial assistance during FY 2008. ASTC(FO)s and DCs are strongly encouraged to share this information with the Local Work Groups to keep them informed of upcoming activities.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Herbert Andrick, ASTC-Programs at 304-284-7560.

/s/ Stephen G. Carpenter, Acting for

KEVIN WICKEY
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: A
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FY 2008 Farm Bill Timeline

EQIP

September - October 2007 LWGs meet and provide advice regarding any changes in LWG Priority Resource Concerns, Ranking Criteria, and Practice Lists.

October 1, 2007 NRCS and Local Work Group members announce availability of EQIP information and end of ranking period. Conduct Concentrated Public Outreach.

October 12, 2007 DCs send information in electronic format to Herb Andrick and their ASTC (FO). DC's will clearly identify any recommended changes in the ranking criteria from FY 2007. The State Conservationist must approve any changes.

November 16, 2007 End of Ranking Period.

January 18, 2008 DCs complete ranking of applications. All EQIP applications, cost estimates and ranking data are entered into ProTracts. Application status is moved from pending to eligible.

January 22, 2008 Lead DCs will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database. The "Lead DC" in the LWG will coordinate and confirm applications selected for contract development with the other DCs, the ASTC (FO), and the ASTC (Programs).

January 24, 2008 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

February 29, 2008 All Contract folders delivered to Area staff for review and contract obligation. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

March 7, 2008 All contracts obligated in ProTracts

WRP

Applications will be forwarded to the State Office as received.